



**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

P.O. Box 16 ~ Majuro ~ Marshall Islands ~ 96960
Tel. No. (692) 625-5327 Email: sechhs.rmi@gmail.com



Sunday, February 2, 2020

To: **ALL RMI SHIPPING AGENTS**

From: Jack Niedenthal, Secretary of Health & Human Services

Subject: Submission of Travel Voyage ITINERARY well in advance of arrival to the RMI

This is to inform all RMI Shipping agents that MOHHS will be **requiring** copies of all voyage itineraries of all vessels scheduled to arrive at any RMI port **2 weeks in advance of arrival**.

This requirement will stay in place as long as the attached Travel Advisory for the prevention of the spread of the 2019-nCoV (coronavirus) and for the measles restrictions in the RMI that are currently in effect.

CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV) RESTRICTIONS:

This attached advisory states that there is now a *Suspension of all persons, travelling via air or sea, from affected countries listed below for a period of 30 days, starting from February 2 until March 2, 2020.*

People's Republic of China (PRC), Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR

This means any and all sea vessels that have originated from --or that have travel through-- any of these above countries are prohibited from docking, and the crew from disembarking, in the RMI.

MEASLES VACCINATION DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Here are the documents that are required by vessels entering the RMI coming from countries that are not under the Coronavirus ban:

- *Proof of MMR up-to-date vaccination
- *Health clearance from the last port
- *Vessel Particulars (schedule/itinerary)
- *Surveillance forms completed and ready for submission

Voyage itineraries should be sent to both of the following people for verification:

Deputy Secretary for Public Health: Mailyynn Konelios-Langinlur mailynnlang@gmail.com

Public Health Director: Dr Tom Jack tjack0964@gmail.com

Surveillance and Epidemiology: Francynne Wase-Jacklick wasejacklick@gmail.com

Therefore, the ministry is executing its functions and powers in accordance with the Public Health, Safety and Welfare Act 7 MIRC Ch.1 §108, to penalize any vessels that are non-compliant with this advisory with the maximum fines allowable by law.

Most up-to-date Measles and Coronavirus Travel Advisories are attached below.



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**REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS
2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS
UPDATED *INTERIM* HEALTH TRAVEL ADVISORY & RESTRICTIONS**

ISSUANCE 2: As of 31 January 2020

(Subject to regular review, as required)

On 30 January 2020, World Health Organization declared the current novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The virus was first detected in Wuhan city, Hubei Province, PRC, and subsequently cases of 2019-nCoV have been detected in 18 countries.

The new virus is a coronavirus, which is a family of viruses that include the common cold, and viruses that cause severe respiratory infections. The virus can be transmitted from person to person, similar to other influenza viruses.

In response to the declaration of PHEIC, the Republic of Marshall Islands' (RMI) former 2019-nCoV travel advisory and restrictions (Issuance 1: 24 January 2020), has been reviewed and updated with the following interim inbound and outbound travel restrictions for all visitors to RMI. **These requirements will come into force effective, February 2, 2020.**

- **Suspension of all persons, travelling via air or sea, from affected countries listed below for a period of 30 days, starting from February 2 until March 2, 2020.**
- **All GRMI government and sponsored official trips to be suspended to affected countries listed below, effective immediately until further notice, with the exception of patients approved by the RMI Medical Referral Committee.**

These are interim travel restrictions, introduced to allow the Government of RMI to implement health emergency preparedness measures at points of entry, to support the future rapid detection and containment of any 2019-nCoV cases. These restrictions will be reviewed and updated as needed and communicated to the public.

The following list of 2019-nCoV affected countries is subject to rapid change based upon global situation and risk, as determined by Secretary of Health and Human Services by official notice.

2019-nCoV affected countries subject to RMI travel restriction:

- **People's Republic of China**
- **Macau SAR**
- **Hong Kong SAR**

Jack Niedenthal
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Secretary of Health & Human Services

January 31, 2020



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20 December 2019

UPDATED Measles International Travel Advisory
Protection Against Measles Importation to RMI

The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MoHHS) in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) hereby issues this **UPDATED** International Travel Advisory due to the current measles outbreaks now occurring in many countries. RMI is highly susceptible to measles introduction due to low immunity coverage of less than 90%, Vitamin A deficiency and stunting in 35% of children under 5. Measles is highly contagious and can spread easily from person to person through the air, via breathing, coughing and sneezing and impacts both children and adults. Every case of measles on average infects 12 to 18 non-immune people exposed to those infected individuals.

If the measles virus is imported to RMI, transmission of measles will spread immediately and rapidly. Therefore, the Ministry is requiring all persons traveling to and from the Republic of the Marshall Islands to abide by the following requirements

Outbound International Travelers: Effective Immediately

- **RMI Citizens living in RMI and Foreign residents 6 months up to 62 years of age traveling internationally from RMI** must provide an official certificate or document that shows proof of an up-to-date measles vaccination or measles immunity from a health care provider before exiting the RMI, **no exceptions** unless contraindicated or exempted by a doctor in writing. Failure to comply will result in exit refusal.
- **All non-residents, including Marshallese citizens traveling on one-way tickets out of the RMI,** do not need to show proof of measles vaccination or measles immunity.

Inbound International Travelers, including all RMI Citizens and Foreign Residents: Effective Immediately

- **All passengers** ages 6 months up to 62 years of age must provide an official certificate or document that shows proof of an up-to-date measles vaccination or measles immunity from a health care provider, **no exceptions** unless contraindicated or exempted by a doctor in writing. Failure to comply will result in entry refusal.

- Persons suffering from contagious disease, and persons who have been exposed to such disease, may be isolated and quarantined in accordance with regulations issued pursuant to Chapter 7 of the Marshall Islands Revised Code Chapter 1 Section 106 of the Public Health and Sanitation.
- All up-to-date vaccinated persons entering RMI will need to “watch and monitor” their own health. Measles symptoms typically include:
 - high fever (may spike to more than 104° F)
 - cough
 - coryza or runny nose
 - conjunctivitis or red, watery eyes
 - rash (develops 3-5 days after symptoms begin)
- Any travellers who develop these symptoms must seek medical care immediately. Public Health officials contact information will be distributed at the ports of entry. These officials will require the ill patients to inform them of their recent travels to measles affected areas, and these officials will need to know whether or not the travelers received a measles vaccination.

Domestic Travel between Majuro and Kwajalein is unrestricted and does not require proof of measles vaccination or measles immunity.

The most effective protection from measles is getting vaccinated. Protect yourself and your loved ones from measles. For further information, please contact the following:

Majuro

Dr. Tom Jack – 456-0964
 Dr. Aina Garstang – 455-4031
 Public Health – 625-6631/32/33
 ER – 625-4144

Ebeye

Dr. Cho Cho Thein – 235-7289
 Dr. Jake Nasa – 235-4503
 ER – 329-8029/8030

Outer Islands

Nearest Health Center
 Mx. Arata Nathan – 455-5817

Respectfully,



Jack Niedenthal
 Secretary of Health and Human Services